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SUBJECT: Ecuador: S/GWI Project Proposals

REF: STATE 132094; STATE 12531

¶1. Embassy Quito submits the following two proposals for consideration by the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues small grant initiative. Both proposals were submitted by respected local organizations with the capacity to achieve the stated goals and meet USG requirements for accountability and reporting and meet the requirements listed in reftel. The proposals below are copied from the original documents submitted by each organization and have not been edited by Post, other than re-formatting for cable transmission. The first proposal responds to a well-defined need among indigenous women working in mountainous areas of the country to understand and respond to climate change in the fragile ecosystems of their high-altitude farms. Indigenous women are traditionally a marginalized group by almost every measure, and giving them the skills and knowledge to respond to changing environments will help keep both the communities and ecological systems protected, while empowering women to take charge of the environmental and economic changes that will impact their livelihoods. This project dovetails with current efforts at Post, defined in the FY2010 Mission Strategic Plan (MSP), to promote economic growth and sustainable development, including efforts to promote environmental protection.

¶2. The second proposal is also targeted to marginalized indigenous women, but the target groups are located in the eastern Amazon provinces. Building on previous development efforts to promote cultural preservation and economic self-sufficiency, the program will enable women to commercialize and market their traditional handicrafts, which will help provide sustainable livings and encourage their participation in the economic life of their communities. This project also serves the FY2010 MSP goal of promoting economic growth and sustainable development.

¶3. If the proposals received funding, the grants can be issued at Post by warranted grants officers in the Public Affairs Section, with the grants officer responsibilities held by the human rights officer in the Political Section. The Political Section will take the lead in grants monitoring and reporting the information to the grants officer at Post and to S/GWI. Both sections understand the requirements for both mid-term and final reporting and accountability for project funds. NOTE: both organizations submitted proposals that met the guidelines in reftel, but cable formatting by Post has changed the layout and formatting significantly. The originals will be emailed to QGWI separately.

¶4. Proposal 1: Organization: FONAG (www.fonag.org.ec)

1. PROBLEM:

The rural, indigenous communities where the project will be located are found within the cantons of Quito, Mejia, Cayambe (in the Pichincha province), and El Chaco (in the Napo province). These communities exist above 3,000 meters altitude in what is uniquely known as a paramo ecosystem. The paramo is a tropical mountain ecosystem located between the limits of Andean forests and the snowline.

A large portion of each protected area where the Fund for Water Protection (FONAG) works (Cayambe Coca Ecological Reserve, Antisana, Ilinizas and Cotopaxi National Park) encompasses this classification of ecosystem which benefits Andean populations with numerous environmental services, especially water, due to its primary function in water regulation. Thanks to these contributions, 70% of water consumed within the Metropolitan District of Quito is attributed to the paramo.

The main productive activities of these communities are agriculture and livestock which, given its intensity and extent, have resulted in the advancement of the agricultural frontier. This has not only detrimentally affected the vegetation cover and biodiversity within these regions but also has a direct effect on soil and water quality.

Aside from local impacts produced by intensive agricultural and extensive livestock activities, there exists a global threat to paramo ecosystems, which are especially vulnerable to climate change. Since this ecosystem is restricted to high mountain areas, any variation in temperature poses a threat to local species, soil properties, and unique climate characteristics.

"The climate is no longer the same as before," say the people in paramo communities. Significant decreases in annual rainfall, persistent droughts, and increasing frost cover have directly impacted the quantity and quality of locally grown crops as well as the food cycles that sustain these agricultural communities. In turn, these factors have intensified the poverty in which the communities live.

A large portion of agricultural practices are currently inefficient in the paramo due to the inappropriate usage of seeds, monocultures, poor soil care, misuse of water, and insufficient pest control among others issues. Additionally, paramo inhabitants depend on rain cycles and favourable conditions within the ecosystem for the provision of water. In turn, this strongly emphasises the importance of conservation within protected areas that provide potable water to a large human population.

The local families have already sought alternatives in order to adapt to changing climate. Women have formed watch groups for frost prevention by implementing traditional Andean techniques used to protect crops. Other families have chosen to search for and select resistant seed strains and promote agro-biodiversity. However, for many families the only option is migration and land abandonment.

Women living in the communities where the project will be implemented are responsible for roughly 50% of food production used for domestic consumption. In practice, these women play a majority role in the management and utilization of the local natural resources, making them the most vulnerable group to the effects of climate change and local environmental issues.

Linked to the problems described above is also the issue of historical and cultural gender inequality. Traditionally, a woman's role focuses more on the production aspect and not on product management and/or decision making regarding proper resource management.

12. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

This project seeks the involvement of paramo women as guardians of traditional practices and resource conservation, taking into account that these are the people facing climate change as a current reality. The women of the paramo, given the opportunity, stand to create harmonious development within their communities and provide appropriate access and usage of the resources which they manage. Through this integrated process, women will be given the chance to improve and demonstrate practical skills, exercise their rights, and enhance their role in finding appropriate solutions to environmental issues.

The project also presents the challenge of consolidating, promoting and developing adaptive activities related to climate change and creating spaces that allow women located in the paramo to strengthen their abilities and balance their role in the community - whether social, economic or environmental.

Additionally, the project seeks to be a link for women from the four protected areas and their buffer zones to establish spaces for learning, discussion, and proposal regarding environmental, social, and economic issues. This, in turn, coincides with the conservation of protected areas.

The strategies of this proposal are:

1. Capacity building for women in paramo communities located within protected areas and/or their buffer zones in the following themes: climate change adaptation, conservation, gender rights, organization, and production development.

2. Development of alternative products adapted to climate change led by women.

3. Recuperation, recovery, and socialization of knowledge and practices of women living in protected areas within the paramo and its buffer zones in relation to climate change.

13. SUSTAINABILITY

FONAG is a private equity fund with a lifespan of 80 years and, through a trust fund, has been operating since January, 2000. It is regulated by the Securities Markets Act. FONAG's equity capital is comprised of mixed contributions from local businesses as well as private and international institutions.

FONAG aims to lead processes and consensus through dialogue, appropriate decision making, strengthening of research, and the use of appropriate technology to achieve Integrated Water Resources Management, where active, responsible, and caring participation from human beings will lead to the indefinite, sustainable management of the resource.

The trust is an economic financial mechanism that is permanent and stable. It uses income from assets to co-finance activities, projects, and rehabilitation programs. It also works to conserve and manage the watersheds which supply water for human usage and productive activities in the Metropolitan District of Quito and its area of influence.

To achieve its objective, FONAG has developed a series of programs and projects that seek to rehabilitate, care for, and conserve water sources which are supplied to the Metropolitan District of Quito and its areas of influence.

Seven of every ten liters of water consumed by residents of the DMQ (Metropolitan District of Quito) comes from the nature reserves of Cayambe-Coca, Antisana, Los Ilinizas and Cotopaxi National Park as

part of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) administered by the Ministry of Environment.

In 2004, FONAG promoted the birth of the Surveillance and Monitoring Program designed to last 20 years. One of the challenges promoted by the program is to integrate the various community actors currently interfering with protected areas or their buffer zones to protect their natural resources through capacity building, generating suggestions through participatory means, and the development of alternatives which take into consideration the sensitivity of the environment.

Since 2006, twenty community projects have been implemented with approximately 350 families who are involved in the conservation of the natural environment of the paramo. These projects work to develop and strengthen human capabilities while integrating productive activities that are linked to resource protection.

Previously developed projects have focused on various eco-productive activities such as agro-ecology, integrated farms, the processing of medicinal plants, ecotourism, and pasture improvement, among others.

There is a common characteristic within the projects developed by the program: 80% of the participants in all activities are women. These are women who take responsibility for disseminating knowledge through conversations with friends and family and who have an invested interest in the land and the products which it generates. This involvement has signified the undertaking of new challenges that also strengthen their role in decision making and the exercising of power.

FONAG's input and experience will contribute to the posterior actions of the project in its search for sustainability and replication. However, it is the exercising of women's power, acquiring of knowledge, and linking of strategies with productive commercial sectors that will allow each community to create sustainable conditions for responsible and opportune development regarding climate change.

14. OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS, & INDICATORS

Project Strategy

General Objective:

To implement effective strategies and practices for adaptation to climate change in terms of capacity building of women's groups in paramo zones

Indicators:

- 18 months in four communities located in protected areas and/or their buffer zones. At least 100 women will have strengthened their capabilities in the training axes identified by the project: rights

- At least 60 women in four protected areas or their buffer zones have the capacity to develop productive projects that take into account environmental protection and climate change adaptation.

- At least 60 families of four protected areas and/or their buffer zones will have been involved in a project linked to a community adaptation strategy that improves the economic conditions of households headed by women

Verification:

Monitoring Plan and Participatory Evaluation , Progress Reports, Photos of the process

Specific Objective 1.

Developing the skills of Ecuadorian women living in four protected areas or in their buffer zones in the exercising of their rights, appreciation of their culture, and self-esteem.

Indicators:

- In 18 months at least 100 women from four communities living in protected areas or their buffer zones will have been involved in a process of discussion, exchange and training in the following areas: women's rights, organization, productive development, climate change and conservation

Verification:

Socialized document regarding training in rights, culture and self-esteem

Reports of training events, Photography, Evaluation of events

Result 1.1. The capacities of women in four communities of protected areas will be strengthened in local adaptation strategies regarding climate change, development of sustainable, productive projects and organization.

Indicators:

- At least 100 women will have participated in a training process on climate change strategies and conservations regarding protected areas over the course of at least 3 workshops in their communities.

- At least 60 women will have participated in two integration forums of between women of the 4 protected areas to share their experiences, challenges and opportunities as women regarding climate change.

- At least 100 women will have strengthened their organizational abilities and will be able to develop eco-productive projects as a strategy to adapt to climate change.

Verification:

Organizational training plan - economic and environmental Memories of planning and development of events Lists of attendees Event Evaluation

Result 1.2. These women will have strengthened their ability to exercise their rights, culture and self-esteem as women living in communities in the four protected areas and/or their buffer zones.

Indicator:

- At least 100 women from four communities living within protected areas or their buffer zones will have participated in 4 events: rights training, cultural self-esteem, and strengthening their communities

Verification:

Socialized document of training plan regarding rights, culture, and self-esteem, Memories of training events, Photography, Event evaluation

Objetivo specific 2. Implement and/or strengthen productive initiatives for adaptation to climate change led by Ecuadorian women in four communities located in four protected areas

Indicator:

- Over the course of 18 months, there will have been four environmental projects - productive adaptation to climate change led by women from four communities in priority protected areas with food sovereignty

Verification:

Project proposals approved, Operational plans, Project participation, Project progress

Result 2.1 Participating women will have been developed and/or expanded four productive and sustainable community alternatives in order to adapt to climate change

Indicator:

- In 18 months, participating women will have been identified and implemented four proposals for the development and/or strengthening of productive activities as an initiative of ecological adaptation to climate change.

- At least 60 women will be appropriately linked to an eco-productive project in four communities in protected areas and/or their buffer zones.

- Participating women will have identified at least one company and/or local and/or national institution that works with a logic of fair trade and where there is feasibility of negotiation and involvement within their value chains

Verification:

Community diagnostics, Bimonthly Progress in operational plans, Community project maps indicating local actors, List of actors, Photos of the process

OE3. Systematize knowledge and practices to recognize and value the roles of women in adaptation strategies regarding climate change and the protection of natural resources

Indicator:

- In 18 months, four experiences will have been systematized with women from protected areas and/or their buffer zones for the conservation of protected areas and measures for adaptation and mitigation of climate change

Verification:

Publication of documents and video collection of women's experiences.

Result 3.1. The knowledge and practices of participating women will have been systemized within the four protected areas and their buffer zones

Indicator:

- A respectful and participatory methodology will have been developed through this community experience which will allow for systemizing and documentation the participating women's knowledge and practices as well as their roles and challenges with respect to conservation in protected areas and climate change.
- At least four experiences will be documented through video and through a publication on women, protected areas, and climate change

Verification:

Experimental methodology on communal living for collection and documentation of the information, Reports on project progress, Document inventory of the experience, Video inventory of the experience

15. Project timeline: 18 months. (Note: FONAG included a graph with their activities plan. Post will forward the entire formatted project to S/GWI via email.)

16. Budget:

Project Strategy	Unit
Amount	US/Unit
Specific objective 1.	
Result 1. 1. 1.	
A.1.1.1 Community Training: adaptation strategies and challenges of Climate Change	
Workshop	
16	
410,00	
A.1.1.2. Integration Forum between women of the 4 protected areas to share the experiences, challenges and opportunities of women regarding climate change	
Forum	
2	
1.450,00	
Result 1. 2	
A.1.2.1 Our right to all rights	
Workshop	

4

410,00

A.1.2.2. "Field trip" to a cultural landmark: Rights of indigenous
womens groups and strengthening the culture

Trip to Rural Countryside

4

350,00

A.1.2.3 The right to live in right relationships: caring and
affection in our living spaces

Workshop

4

410,00

A.1.2.4 Women's organization and participation

Workshop

4

410,00

A.1.2.5. Women living and strengthen their leadership

Workshop

4

410,00

A.1.2.6. Workshop on the Development of Productive Ecological
Projects

Workshop

4

810,00

Specific Objective 2.

Result 2.1.

A.2.1 Participatory diagnostic: social, economic, environmental and
productive communities

Consultation

1

8.000,00

A.2.2. Submission of proposals for productive projects such as
ecological adaptation strategies to climate change

Workshop

4

205,00

A.2.3. Development Projects: productive ecological adaptation to climate change

Project

4

9.500,00

A.3.4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Thesis

2

3.060,00

Specific Objective 3

Result 3.1.

A.3.1. Experiential methodology to systematize and document the knowledge and practices of women, their roles and challenges with respect to conservation in protected areas and climate change

Workshop

4

810,00

A.3.2. Presentation and approval of proposals for documentation of experiences

Workshop

4

205,00

A.3.3 Script shots made and approved

Consultation

1

4.000,00

A.3.4. Video and Document Editing

Consultation

1

4.000,00

A.3.5. Review of video and document drafts

Qnsultation

1

800,00

A.3.6. Review and approval of video and document

Consultation

1

800,00

Coordinator

18

600,00

Subtotal

Visibility: FONAG & USG

2%

Total
100.021,20

15. Proposal 2: Organization: Sinchi Sacha (www.sinchisacha.org)

Title: INDIGENOUS WOMEN, TRADITIONAL CRAFTS AND MARKET CONCEPT PAPER

11. SUMMARY

Project Title

Indigenous women, traditional crafts and market

Location

Ecuadorian Amazonia

Project Duration

18 months

Total Budget

USD\$ 100,000.00

Programme Sectors

Economic opportunity

Beneficiaries

50 women leaders and 250 people

12. BACKGROUND

The Ecuadorian Amazonia is characterized by its ecological fragility, ethnical diversity, and extraordinary biodiversity. It is precisely those, the ancestral indigenous territories, the ones considered to be in good condition, with more than 6 million Hectares of native forest, representing 50% of the country's forests. Indigenous women are the mainstay to give continuity to

the traditional ways of living, of which the main characteristic is conservation of natural resources.

Sinchi Sacha Foundation (www.sinchisacha.org)

has promoted cooperation relations with indigenous populations in the Amazonia, particularly women, for some 15 years now, fostering the development of artisanal production initiatives under the concept of Fair Trade.

Family production units got involved in a range of activities which promoted artisanal production and commercialization, recovery of cultural heritage of these peoples, their symbols, representations of daily life, and identity values, with training strategies to improve product designs and quality. It is their work which has given aggregate value to traditional production.

During all these years, they created their own commercialization spaces, from which they generated possibilities to improve products, determine prices, formalize the legal status of artisans (invoices, taxes, etc.), as well as a gradual integration to the formal market, among other aspects. These activities were carried out within the framework of the execution of USAID-funded projects, such as CAIMAN.

As a result of these processes, there are now artisanal production networks in operation across the entire Ecuadorian Amazonia. From all of them, three peoples of particular characteristics stand out:

- Cofan craftswomen
- Kichwa women ceramicists of Pastaza
- Huaorani craftswomen

In each territorial space, women leaders have been in training and acting as local promoters in product identification, training in artisanal design, articulation and representation with socio-organizational structures, among others. Nevertheless, they do not have defined commercialization mechanisms, this segment being one of their main weaknesses.

Summing up, they have an interesting production base, experience in creating products; they have achieved some visibility in socio-organizational structures within communities, but continue to have deficiencies in commercialization mechanisms. These are the issues addressed by the project.

13. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

General objective: Consolidate commercialization systems of artisanal products made by craftswomen organizations of the Cofan, Kichwa of Pastaza, and Huaorani nationalities, located in the provinces of Sucumbios, Orellana, and Pastaza.

Specific objectives:

- a. Consolidate artisanal production initiatives of indigenous women organizations
- b. Train indigenous women in traditional management and fair trade
- c. Develop product promotion, diffusion, and marketing activities

4. METHODOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Each Amazonian people has its own life story and experiences in different production segments. A piece of craft is a cultural product remaining characteristic of each people, representative of specific cultural traditions. Therefore, the project proposes a general methodology, with specific approaches for each people:

- The general methodology is based on the active participation of women in the design, formulation, and execution of the project. Therefore, a basic register of women leaders of each production group has been carried out, which will be completed until it reaches a total of 50 craftswomen.

- Handmade products have multiple meanings which must be expressed and communicated in each one of the pieces of craft. Thus, gathering the aggregate value of culture and the way of making the products.

- Pieces of craft of the Amazonia contain some environmental and cultural characteristics, this being the reason why they cannot be massively produced. They have a very high market niche within our own country, if we take into consideration the number of tourists entering the country each year (around one million), they promote the installation of a local market dynamic and the propagation of these cultural products at the local level, which inspires an aesthetic valorization of our own selves.

- The art of crafting has to be in constant development and improvement, along with the development, transformation and resignification of the imagination and culture, therefore various and diverse training is needed. Craftswomen will receive training on these and other related topics, to promote relatively stable markets for them to sell their products, in viable, simple, and effective operation schemes.

From the particularity of interventions, we propose the following specific methodological criteria:

For Cofan craftswomen

As we may know, the Cofan people are settled in disperse territories and, in all of them, the production of pieces of craft is generalized, for it is a complementary economic activity, particularly for women.

Adding up all territorial spaces, we have established a participation margin of up to 15 women leaders, who at present act as local promoters in product identification, training in artisanal design, articulation and representation with socio-organizational structures, among other activities.

The Ecuadorian Federation of Indigenous Organizations of the COFAN Nationality (FEINCE) will act as the local partner within the project, represented by the official delegate of the organization.

For Kichwa women ceramists of Pastaza

In the province of Pastaza, women ceramists make their products in partnership with others, as well as with their family. From the direct market experience carried out by the Sinchi Sacha Foundation and its fair trade network, we have observed that mucahuas made in Pastaza are a product which is very appreciated by tourists and always have a high demand.

The methodology criteria consist on the selection of 15 craftswomen, both from organized groups and family production units. The work with this segment will be focused on providing training to women leaders to improve their ability to fulfill market orders, specific training in product size and design.

For Huaorani Women

The Waorani Women's Association of Ecuador (AMWAE) has been in operation in the Huaorani territory for several years. It groups more than 200 women leaders from 36 communities, who live distant from each other in a territorial extension of 678,220 Hectares.

The AMWAE has its headquarters in Puyo and has a craft shop that has consolidated over time. They demand an improvement in artisanal production lines, promotion and commercialization. The Association has selected 20 women leaders, 15 of who will specialize in artisanal design, production, and orders; and the 5 remaining will provide training in the communities, on promotion and commercialization.

15. ACTIVITIES

a. Consolidate initiatives of artisanal production of indigenous women organizations

Three participation workshops on artisanal production chains

Provide support for technical administration in Cofan and Huaorani craft shops

Packaging techniques and attachment of informational tags on products

b. Train indigenous women on artisanal management and fair trade

Six workshops on artisanal management: size, price, and orders

Six workshops on training for fairs and trade

Exchange of experiences on craft fair trade

c. Develop product promotion, diffusion, and marketing activities

Print 500 documents of Cofan, Kichwa and Huaorani ethnical art for sale

Print of Cofan, Kichwa and Huaorani art brands

Design and printing of 3 artisanal catalogues

Participation in 3 national fairs, including a fair to present results

16. OUTCOMES

6.1 Indigenous women organizations have strengthened family initiatives of craft production and partnership

a) Fifty women have received training on artisanal production chains

b) Two craft shops have improved their technical and commercial management

c) All three organizations (Cofan, Kichwa, and Huaorani) have received training on packaging techniques and elaboration of informational tags.

6.2 Train indigenous women on artisanal management and fair trade

a) Fifteen women leaders have been trained on artisanal management: size, price, and orders

b) Fifteen women leaders have been trained on participation in fairs and artisanal trade

c) Six women leaders now know how to put fair trade in practice through an exchange of experiences

6.3 Develop product promotion, diffusion, and marketing activities

a) 500 documents of Cofan, Kichwa and Huaorani ethnical art have been printed for sale

b) Cofan, Kichwa, and Huaorani crafts are commercialized under their own artisanal brands

c) Three organizations of indigenous craftswomen have their own catalogues of artisanal products.

d) They have participated in 3 national fairs, one of them dedicated to present the final results of the project

17. BUDGET

ACTIVITIES / OUTCOMES

BUDGET REQUESTED

PARTNER

Indigenous women organizations have strengthened family initiatives of craft production and partnership

a) Fifty women leaders have received training on artisanal production chains

10.000,00

1,000.00

b) Two craft shops have improved their technical and commercial management

25.000,00

2,000.00

c) All three organizations (Cofan, Kichwa, and Huaorani) have received training on packaging techniques and elaboration of informational tags

10.000,00

Train indigenous women on artisanal management and fair trade

a) Fifteen women leaders have received training on artisanal management: size, price, and orders

16.000,00

800.00

b) Fifteen women leaders have been trained on participation in fairs and artisanal trade

16.000,00

800.00

c) Six women leaders now know how to put fair trade in practice through an exchange of experiences

16.000,00

1,500.00

Develop product promotion, diffusion, and marketing activities

a) 500 documents of Cofan and Huaorani ethnical art have been printed for sale

1.000,00

b) Cofan, Kichwa, and Huaorani crafts are commercialized under their own artisanal brands

1.000,00

c) Three organizations of indigenous craftswomen have their own catalogues of artisanal products.

1.000,00

d) They have participated in 3 national fairs, one of them dedicated to present the final results of the project

4.000,00

TOTAL

100.000,00

6,100.00

18. TIMETABLE AND INDICATORS

ACTIVITIES / OUTCOMES/Timeline

Indigenous women organizations have strengthened the family initiatives of craft production and partnership

a. Fifty women leaders have received training on artisanal production chains; Month 1-3

b. Two craft shops have improved their technical and commercial management; Month 4-6

c. All three organizations (Cofan, Kichwa, and Huaorani) have received training on packaging techniques and elaboration of informational tags; Month 6-8

Train indigenous women on artisanal management and fair trade

a. Fifteen women leaders have received trained on artisanal management: size, price, and orders, Month 3,6,9

b. Fifteen women leaders have been trained on participation in fairs and artisanal trade; Month 4,7,10

c. Six women leaders now know how to put fair trade in practice through an exchange of experiences, Month 9

Develop product promotion, diffusion, and marketing activities

a. 500 documents of Cofan and Huaorani ethnical art have been

printed for sale; Month 5

b. Cofan, Kichwa, and Huaorani crafts are commercialized under their own artisanal brands, Month 6

c. Three organizations of indigenous craftswomen have their own catalogues of artisanal products; Month 9

d. They have participated in 3 national fairs, one of them dedicated to present the final results of the project; Month 9-12
HODGES